

## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 at 7pm in Nenthead Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Green, (Chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, J. Glendinning, E. Grew, T. Haldon, —A. Martin, R. Miller, D. Phillips, A Robertson, R. Thomson, G. Wright.

**Apologies:** Cllrs: P Godwin, S. Hill.

**Absent:** none

**Declarations of interest:** listed under specific agenda items. 7/OCT/16 Cllr Thomson.

### **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Athey. (1 abs).

### **2. Progress Reports**

#### **2a/OCT/16 Issues with Alston ATMs**

Re 2e/SEPT/16 Acknowledgement of the clerk's complaint about the frequency of cash running out of the Clydesdale Bank ATM at Spar, but nothing further received. Cllr Martin confirmed nothing further had been heard from Barclays. Noted that Barclays had only confirmed their ATM would be available for one year, and that the problems with cash running out could become much worse with only one machine.

#### **2b/OCT/16 Appointment of a website contractor**

Re: 11/SEPT/16 A meeting was held with Cllrs Martin, Haldon, the clerk and the website designer with the aim of starting work on the site at the beginning of November.—\_The representatives reported that the council would need to purchase a template and other add-ons.

#### **2c/OCT/16 Alston Ambulance update**

Re: 2a/SEPT/16 A report was received from North West Ambulance Service stating that the first cohort of people for the new service are undertaking weekly refresher training with the clinical team to ensure they feel competent before going live, as it is some time since they finished their initial training. Estates works are planned at the cottage hospital with a confirmed completion date of 17<sup>th</sup> October, after which the vehicle will be sited there and provide an interim operational model until the second cohort are trained. Dates for the course are yet to be confirmed, but is likely to be early 2017. Once complete there will be enough people in the team to undertake a full cover service for the future.

#### **2d/OCT/16 Garrigill Playarea**

Re: JUL/16 An e-mail was received from Garrigill Village Hall stating that the problem with the play area grass is a temporary one caused by the breakdown of the grass cutting machine, which is an elderly and obsolete American model, for which spare parts cannot be obtained. It broke down about 5 weeks ago, but a solution has now been found by fabricating the necessary part, and it will be repaired shortly. As a temporary measure a volunteer has been asked to strim the area adjacent to the playarea, which may have been done now. A request was made to be informed of the identity of the villagers who complained, so that a written apology can be made. This information was provided.

### **3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives**

#### **3a/OCT/OCT/16 Neighbourhood Planning ACT Community Led Planning debate**

District Cllr Sheriff was asked to give the report, as he had attended with Cllr Phillips. He explained that the meeting discussed the difference between community, emergency and neighbourhood plans. Neighbourhood plans have a place in the statutory planning system and are concerned with the spatial use of land. A good neighbourhood plan should provide evidence of the thinking behind the process and be backed up by community desire. It is important to involve the community, through a variety of means including meetings and questionnaires with both quantitative and qualitative questions. It is also vital to get the right resources to ensure that any policies put forward for consideration are workable, and that those involved are enthusiastic about the process. Cllr Green was asked to attend working group meetings.

#### **3b/OCT/OCT/16 Tyne Willows Management Committee**

Draft minutes were circulated to the Committee. Cllr Green has replaced Cllr Miller as the parish council representative, after Cllr Miller agreed to represent SKS.

SKS are to replace the signage; the hire charges are to remain the same for the coming year. SKS will support the parish council decision on the Appleby Fair travellers.

Northumbria Water visited the footpath site, but we are still waiting for confirmation as to whether they have managed to deal with the sewerage leak. It was agreed that no action could be taken over the problem of spring water on the path at present.

Cllr Thomson reported that SKS are willing to send a representative to the initial Tyne Willows Pavilion Committee meeting.—\_This will include potential users who will be invited—\_to discuss how the building could be used, and a working party set up.

The clerk reported that an Eden District Council officer has offered to attend a meeting to discuss the Appleby Fair travellers. The suggestion that the proposed pavilion committee decide how to manage the travellers was not supported, and no decision made over the offer from Eden.

### **3c/OCT/OCT/16 Street light working group**

The group have not met as it was impossible to set a date, instead the clerk has put together maps of the three communities with the approved street lights, with the aim of getting an up-to-date list of out-of-order lights. This should include the street lights that will eventually go, but can be repaired until they fail.

It was agreed to put a copy of the street light plans in Local Links and ask the community to let them know of lights that are out of order, to help in compiling a list of problem lights.

It was mentioned that a resident wants to get a group together to look at the lighting situation in other communities, but as the County Council are responsible for many more lights in a number of towns within Eden, it may be difficult to make a direct comparison.

### **3d/OCT/OCT/16 Meeting with Coal Authority and Wilson Sheriff to discuss public participation over Nenthead and Nentsberry mine treatment works**

A meeting was held with parish representatives, the Coal Authority and their independent consultants, Wilson Sheriff, to discuss how to move forward with a public consultation on the proposed mine treatments works at Nentsberry, and Nenthead. The Nentsberry search area is to be widened. The team will identify the aspects of the project that are non-negotiable, but are aiming to involve the local community in the decision process. They are aiming for a genuine consultation, and are willing to consider all possible sites.

### **3e/OCT/OCT/16 Nenthead Ward meeting**

It was reported that a request was received to plant a Christmas tree in Alston. Members replied that this had been discussed many times in the past with the conclusion that it would be too small initially, then eventually grow too big for the site. Then there is the safety aspect to consider. The Friends of the Town Hall commissioned a mast last year to fix the lights to, and this had worked very well.

### **3f/OCT/OCT/16 Community Transport meeting**

The meeting discussed the Community Wheels bus, which is to remain on Alston Moor for the foreseeable future. Day trips are proving popular, but the fixed route to Garrigill is to be disbanded as it is not being used. The Carlisle summer route will continue to operate, although it was not well used; it may take time for people to get used to it. Residents will be asked about new potential routes, and to feed their ideas back to Local Links.

Cllr Athey was thanked for keeping the Garrigill route going.

### **3g/OCT/OCT/16 Code of Conduct**

Cllr Thomson reported that she had contacted CALC for advice on the code of conduct for parish councillors, and that they are willing to provide training. The clerk was asked to follow this up. **Action CL**

Concern was raised about members using e-mail to discuss council business, although there was no evidence that decisions of any importance had been made outside of council meetings.

**Resolved** that parish council members do not use e-mails for discussions. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Glendinning. (8+ 3- 1 abs.)

### **4 County Councillor's Report**

*Cllr Robinson reported on the following:*

**Waste Prevention Fund** - this scheme can help with up to £3,000 funding for eligible projects.

**Firs speed humps** - letters have gone out to residents and the consultation process is complete. A report will be made to the Traffic Management meeting.

**Criminal activity** – the area committee discussed the ongoing theft of equipment and livestock from Alston Moor.

**Road repairs** – ongoing.

**Alston Market Cross** – members asked about repairs to the Market Cross as the steps are breaking away from the main body, and the section damaged by a vehicle is still awaiting repairs.

### **District Councillor's Report**

*Cllr Sheriff reported on the following:-*

**16-18 educational transport** – Cllr Sheriff met with Kevin Beaty, Eden District Council's leader, to discuss the issue of transport for 16–18s, following the loss of County Council subsidies. Newton Rigg are subsidising their transport, but could extend the service to Alston, and possibly take pupils interested in attending sixth form in Penrith. This would depend upon demand. The next step is to provide evidence of need to try and gauge how many 16-18s would be interested, and Cllr Sheriff has spoken to Ian Johnson about inviting Newton Rigg into SKS to talk to pupils.

### **5. Planning**

No planning applications were received this month.

#### **Decision Notices**

**i/OCT/16** 15/0832 Full application Erection of four dwellings. Land Adj Fell View, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3PS for Mr J.R. Edgar. . Permission granted with conditions.

**ii/OCT/16** 16/0324 Outline application. Proposed residential development to provide two dwellings. Land adj to Clarkhall Cottage, Garrigill CA9 3EB for Mr R. Hymers. Permission granted with conditions.

**iii/OCT/16** 16/0441 Full application. Proposed one additional new dwelling to the Raise Park Development. Raise Park, Brampton Road, Alston CA9 3AA for Mr & Mrs S. Harrison. Permission granted with conditions.

**iv/OCT/16** 16/0468 Full application. Change of use from A1 retail shop to C4 dwelling house. Former Barclays Bank Chambers, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SE for Mr T. Rosenberg. Permission granted with conditions. Amended from 5iiiSEP/16 which stated the application was refused. This was sent in error and had not gone out to the applicant.

**v/OCT/16** 16/0555 Full application. Works to west elevation of dwelling and reinstatement of ground floor lean-to extension. Turks Head Inn, Market Place, Alston CA9 3HS for Mr & Mrs Mearns. Permission granted with conditions.

### **6. Request to consider the draft copy of the Design and Access Statement for the proposed improvements and extension to Tyne Willows Pavilion**

The plans were circulated earlier.—An e-mail was received from the architect who would like the parish council's feedback to help firm up the design and detail ahead of the planning application. He understood that the gym are starting to consider a project team.

Members observed that it is a great idea for the community, but could take a long time to bring to fruition.

Cllr Glendinning reported that the new manager had taken the gym from rock bottom and proved there is a demand, and although she has now moved away from Alston will continue to take an interest. The job has been advertised.

**Resolved** to continue to support in principle the proposals for improvements and extension to the gym. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

The clerk reported that there are some issues relating to the lease that need to be considered by the parish council and gym directors.

Noted that the Community Warden has helped the gym by picking up rubbish around the recycling centre.

### **7. Request from, Eden Housing for the parish council's views on their proposal to consider 7 Globe House for disposal as part of their stock rationalisation programme**

Eden Housing Association are reviewing all their properties to assess their long term financial viability. Some properties are difficult to let, or have high repair costs and one of the options is to consider disposing of them and using the sale proceeds to invest in new affordable housing.

7 Globe House was recommended to be considered for disposal due to significant difficulty in letting it, and the issue of not meeting the minimal internal floor area standards. The flat has been advertised to let since October 2015 with no interest. It is in a building with private flats and other EHA flats, and there has been an element of anti-social behaviour from one of the private tenants making this property difficult to let. EHA propose to dispose of the property by sale or auction, but before taking action would like the parish council's views.

Cllr Thomson declared an interest as an employee of Eden Housing.

**Resolved** that no comment would be made. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

### **8. Management plan for Firs and Henderson's woods**

The clerk reported that as autumn is here the council needs to consider the recommendations in the woodlands safety survey. There is one tree on the bankside, which was recommended for removal within the year. She was advised by the surveyor that as there has been no maintenance work carried out in Firs Wood for a number of years. Dealing with this should reduce the workload in future years, subject to acts of nature such as high winds and bankside erosion. He also suggested that getting the work done by one contractor should be more cost-effective than a piecemeal approach.

Cllr Robertson offered to look at the list again. The resident who wanted the fallen tree in Henderson's Wood has not done anything about it. The clerk was asked to check if ~~he still wants it~~ it is still wanted.

**Action CL**

### **9. Consultations and Correspondence**

#### **9a/OCT/16 Public Consultation document on the Future of Healthcare in West, North and East Cumbria**

The consultation will last until just before Christmas 2016 and the Success Regime hope to encourage as many people as possible to express their views on the various options. Throughout the consultation there will be a number of public meetings and other events to further listen and engage with communities which may be affected by change.

Members and residents were asked to fill in the consultation document. It was noted that key people including Rory Stewart, MP were being non-committal during the consultation stage.

Cllr Martin reported that a small working group were meeting to look at the future of healthcare in Alston, and if the proposals do not meet the needs of the community alternative proposals will be considered.

#### **9b/OCT/16 Neighbourhood Planning Bill**

A letter was received from Gavin Barwell MP introducing a new bill which will strengthen neighbourhood planning and put more power into the hands of local people to decide where new development goes. It strengthens the neighbourhood planning process by ensuring that decision takers must have regard to advanced plans and that plans come into force as soon as they have been approved by local people, and by simplifying how plans can be revised. They are also simplifying the compulsory purchase order process, which is always used as a last resort, but can be essential in delivering big and complex schemes. New measures will ensure planning conditions which require developers to take action before works starts are only used where strictly necessary, but should ensure important heritage and environmental safeguards remain in place. This means that once a developer has planning permission they can start building as soon as possible.

#### **9c/OCT/16 Proposed constituency boundary changes**

A letter was received from a local resident asking if the parish council should be discussing the proposed constituency boundary changes. The initial consultation runs until 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The changes if they go ahead will result in an extremely large area with fewer people, which would leave Alston Moor more out on a limb than it already is. Agenda item for next month.— **Action CL**

#### **9d/OCT/16 Boundary Wall – Tyne Willows Caravan Park**

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council, who recently visited the caravan park when the matter of the missing section of the boundary stone wall was mentioned giving access to the site. There is a query as to who owns the wall, but Moredun Garage think it belongs to the parish council. The clerk was asked to check the deeds. **Action CL**

It was suggested that as the Sheep Show run an annual walling competition the wall could be put up during the Show.

#### **9e/OCT/16 Notice of events and meetings**

An invitation was received for the chair and another councillor to attend an event to celebrate the completion of the first property in the Townscape Heritage scheme on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Green reported that he would be on holiday. Cllr Robertson offered to attend.

#### **9f/OCT/16 Information received**

NALC – Legal topic note – the rights of local councils to be notified of planning applications and decisions

CCC – bus timetable from 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Local Council Review – Autumn 2016

#### **10. Planning for an open meeting to discuss the precept requests for 2017/2018**

It was agreed to put back the open meeting to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, as it was agreed that the parish council need to decide upon a grant giving policy first. The intention is to give organisations looking for funding an opportunity to present their case. The clerk was asked to research grant application forms from other parishes. **Action CL**

#### **11. Resignation of Nenthead Ward Councillor**

Formal notification has been received that there were no requests for an election so the parish council may go ahead and co-opt. A letter was received from Holly Ho asking to be considered for co-option. It was agreed to wait until next month to give others time to think about the vacancy and to encourage residents to put themselves forward.

#### **12. Decision on what to do about the Neighbourhood Forum grant for an Alston directory**

The clerk reported that the County Council need to know what is to happen with the grant of £210 allocated towards an Alston directory of local organisations, as the grant completion form needs to be returned within the month or the funds returned. The difficulty in organising the directory stemmed from the unavailability of artwork as the council does not have the facilities to generate full colour artwork, and the cost of employing a graphic designer would be more than the allocated funds. If the grant is not spent within the next month it will need to be returned, or risk the council being unable to make further applications.

**Resolved** to return the £210 as the Alston Moor newsletter has a directory of local organisations that can achieve the same result without further costs.—Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (1 abs). **Action CL**

#### **13. Items for next month's agenda, the Traffic Management Committee agenda and urgent business**

Requests for next month's agenda included the future of Alston Cottage Hospital and updates on action points from the meeting.

Requests for the Traffic Management meeting included an update on Front Street renovations and a request that patching work begins if there is to be a lengthy delay. An update on The Firs speed humps, and the condition of signage on Alston Moor.

#### **14. Finance**

##### **14a/OCT/16 Bank statements**

The statements as of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£31,849.43
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,675.04
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

##### **143b/OCT/16 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£1,528.30
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Summary of income received since last meeting: - £43.00  
Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: - £805.58

**Resolved** that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 1. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

*The meeting closed at 9.15pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....